

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 AGR-20 INT-08 OIC-04 RSR-01 HEW-08 SPM-01

COME-00 /176 W

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R 301215 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7013

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS QUITO 1639

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OCON, ECLA, EC

SUBJECT: 15 TH SESSION ECLA: PLENARY

1. THE PLENARY MORNING SESSION OF MARCH 26 WAS CONFINED TO AN ADDRESS BY CHIEF OF VENEZUELAN DELEGATION ANTONIO CASAS- GONZALES, LAST OF THE OPENING SPEECHES BY PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS, AND BRIEF REMARKS ON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BY ARGENTINE DELEGATION.

2. MOST OF THE VENEZUELAN SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO EXTOLLING INTERNAL VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPMENT IN NON-PETROLEUM SECTORS. CASAS EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HIGHER PRIMARY PRODUCT EXPORT PRICES, SUCH AS PETROLEUM, AND HE ENDORSED ECUADOREAN PETROLEUM POLICY, IN LIGHT OF THE MARCH 27 ECUADOREAN DECISION TO RAISE REFERENCE PRICE OF CRUDE 30 CENTS PER BARREL. IN A FURTHER SHOW OF SOLIDARITY WITH ECUADOR AND OTHERS, HE CRITICIZED THE INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL CRITERIA INTO LENDING DECISIONS OF MULTILATERAL DONORS IN DEFENSE OF SPECIAL INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. ON MTN, CASAS EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE NOTION THAT ALL COUNTRIES COULD BENEFIT. EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF LDC'S, WHETHER GATT CP'S OR NOT, WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS. EFFECTIVE LDC PARTICIPATION MEANS PARTICIPATION UNDER THE PRINCIPLES.

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PLES OF NON- RECIPROCITY, COMPENSATION FOR IMPAIRED PREFERENCES, AND SPECIAL TREATMENT OF LDC'S REGARDING SAFEGUARD CLAUSES. ON MONETARY REFORM, CASAS CALLED FOR A HIGHER PROPORTION OF SDR DISTRIBUTIONS FOR LDC'S AND PRAISED THE IMF FOR ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. ACTING FURTHER AS SPOKESMAN FOR COMMON LA INTERESTS, HE HAD KIND WORDS FOR RECENT IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM OF CONTINENT, SUPPORTED STRENGTHENING LAFTA AND THE OTHER REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS, AND ENDORSED THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT AND OTHER COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS.

3. THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION'S REMARKS ON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WERE LOW KEY AND CENTERED ON THE ARGENTINE CASE. MOST EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO ARGENTINE NEED FOR MORE RAPID POPULATION GROWTH. THUS ARGENTINE EFFORTS IN THIS AREA SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY AND INTERNAL MIGRATION. REMARKS ENDORSED "EFFECTIVE" LDC PARTICIPATION IN MTN. SOCIALIST DC'S WERE URGED TO INCREASE THEIR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

BURNS

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